

foundations

June 2010



Effective
Households



Come and
join us for the

CITYWIDE Family Hour

Every Sunday 9:30 am
Singing & Bible Message



Followed by a relaxed
Morning Tea & Coffee
on the deck



Citywide Christian Fellowship
Cnr. Progress & Mission Roads, White Rock. Ph. (07) 4036 0500

About Us

Citywide Christian Fellowship is a family-focused church with particular programs for children, teenagers, young adults, men, ladies and senior adults. Visitors are most welcome.

Sunrise Morning Meetings

Citywide Family Hour, with an all-age Sunday School program & Creche, commences at 9:30am with morning tea afterwards. This is followed by Worship & Communion at 11:00am.



Teenagers & Young Adults

Helping teenagers through adolescence, and having them established as secure young adults, would have to be one of our greatest desires. As a result, we devote time and effort into running a practical and relevant program.



Christian Women's Fellowship

Our Christian Women's Fellowship (CWF) gatherings are an important part of our life together as Christian women. Our desire is to find true fellowship as women, where we are able to meet with each other and know the Lord's direction for each of our lives.



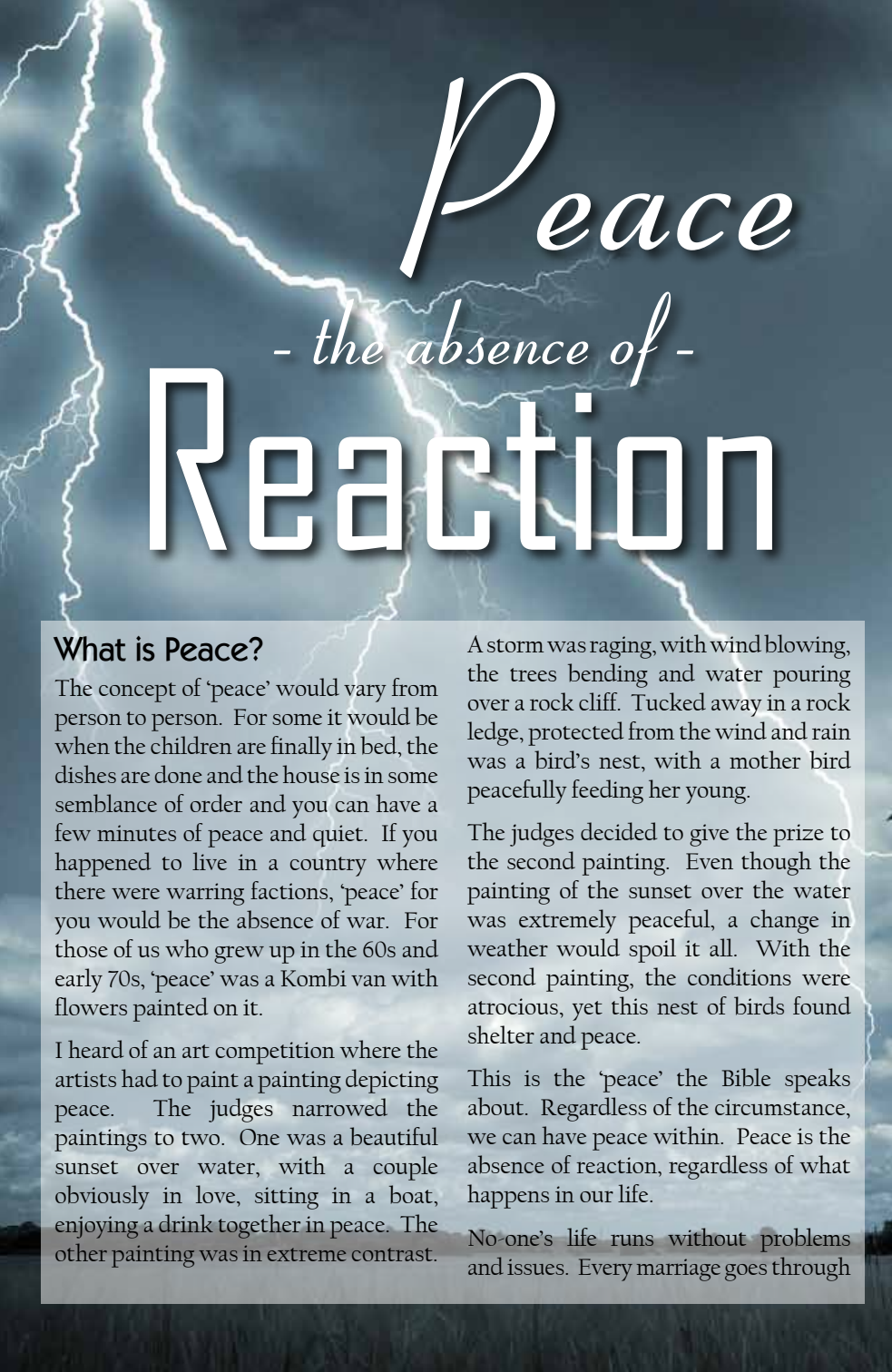
Mums and Kids

Mums & Kids consists of small groups of mothers and children meeting together in family homes. These times provide a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and a unique time of nurturing our little ones in the ways of the Lord.



Senior Adults Over 50s

Our seniors gather together regularly to encourage and edify one another in the word and grace of God.



Peace

- the absence of -

Reaction

What is Peace?

The concept of 'peace' would vary from person to person. For some it would be when the children are finally in bed, the dishes are done and the house is in some semblance of order and you can have a few minutes of peace and quiet. If you happened to live in a country where there were warring factions, 'peace' for you would be the absence of war. For those of us who grew up in the 60s and early 70s, 'peace' was a Kombi van with flowers painted on it.

I heard of an art competition where the artists had to paint a painting depicting peace. The judges narrowed the paintings to two. One was a beautiful sunset over water, with a couple obviously in love, sitting in a boat, enjoying a drink together in peace. The other painting was in extreme contrast.

A storm was raging, with wind blowing, the trees bending and water pouring over a rock cliff. Tucked away in a rock ledge, protected from the wind and rain was a bird's nest, with a mother bird peacefully feeding her young.

The judges decided to give the prize to the second painting. Even though the painting of the sunset over the water was extremely peaceful, a change in weather would spoil it all. With the second painting, the conditions were atrocious, yet this nest of birds found shelter and peace.

This is the 'peace' the Bible speaks about. Regardless of the circumstance, we can have peace within. Peace is the absence of reaction, regardless of what happens in our life.

No-one's life runs without problems and issues. Every marriage goes through

times of conflict. We have conflict with our children, in our workplace and sometimes with our neighbours. Many feel let down by life and we feel we have been unfairly dealt with. Whatever it may be, there are a multitude of things that cause us to react and rob us of peace.

Can we live without reaction?

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 5:1.

In this Bible verse it says we can have ‘peace with God’. We can be at one with God. Many of us have never thought that to live without reaction to others, we must first settle our attitude

to God or that our negative reaction to others flows from our lack of peace with God.

The Bible speaks of two men who made offering toward God. Abel was accepted by God but Cain was not. Cain was angry that God had not accepted him and his offering, but God wanted to accept Cain. God pleaded with him to change his attitude and instead of letting sin have dominion over his life, come to God again, with an attitude and offering that would be acceptable. Cain would not listen to God. He did not rule over sin and he left the presence of God angry and reactive, found his brother, Abel, and murdered him. His problem was with God, not with Abel, his brother, and yet he murdered him.

If you and I are to live in peace with others, be it our spouse, family members, work colleagues or community members, we must first make peace with God.

Peace through Jesus

Jesus Christ left heaven and came to earth to remove our sin, the cause of our conflict with God. When Jesus was born the angels declared, “peace on earth and goodwill to all men”. Also, His name ‘Jesus’ means, “He shall save mankind from sin”.

The obvious question that could be raised is, why isn’t there peace on earth? Why isn’t there goodwill among men? The answer is simple. The majority of the human race has rejected Jesus. They have not trusted their lives to Christ. They have not accepted that His death on the cross was for their sin



and, like Cain, have walked away from Jesus without making peace with God. What about you?

We, like Cain, have sin at the door of our lives. Sin has dominion over us. Cain was to make a new offering to God and he would have been accepted. Jesus Christ is the only offering that God will accept.

Christ our Peace

Sitting at the table with His disciples on the night before He was crucified, Jesus bore the full weight of knowing what was to come, and yet the gospel accounts do not depict an anxious man. Instead, they reveal a remarkable calmness. Of all the nights of His thirty-three years, it was on this night of betrayal, denial and crucifixion that Jesus spoke the following words: "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

God's peace is the peace demonstrated by Jesus during the night of His crucifixion. It is not sourced from within ourselves, and can't be obtained from a health regimen or well-being



philosophy, or from an absence of troubles, for these things are worldly peace. He offers His peace to us. When we receive Christ and His word of peace, we receive an enabling to stay our mind on God and He keeps us in perfect peace regardless of our circumstances.

If I am to make peace with God, I am to accept that it was for my sin Jesus died. I am a sinner, Christ died and took my sin, and He alone can forgive me. Forgiveness through the Lord Jesus Christ will enable us to be one with God, thus finding 'peace'.

- Bruce Mackay

THE LIFE OF JESUS



To receive copies of the booklets in this series, please contact us at the church office.

CYA



children **youth** parents

Sports
Volleyball
Activities
Basketball
Craft
Singing
Bible Talk
Football
Supper
BBQ Dinner



6:30pm to 9pm
Friday nights

All inclusive: \$5 Adults, \$3 Students
Activities & supper only: \$2 Students

Children under 10 must be accompanied
by a parent or guardian

Every Friday night except school holidays



Jesus calms the storm

Mark 4

After a busy day, Jesus and His disciples went out in a boat. Jesus was so tired He went to the front of the boat and laid down on a pillow for a sleep.

Suddenly, the wind began to blow dark clouds across the sky, making huge waves that crashed into the boat.

The disciples began to get a little bit worried. However, Jesus continued sleeping in the front of the boat.

Then the wind grew stronger still. The spray from the waves made the disciples all wet. This was beginning to be a bad storm! But Jesus still slept in the front of the boat.

The storm just got worse and worse and the disciples were terrified. They thought they might drown. But Jesus still slept

in the front of the boat.

Finally, someone went and shook Jesus awake. "Master!" he cried, "Don't you care if we drown?" Jesus looked around. He listened to the howling wind. He felt the cold, stinging spray



as the waves crashed over the little boat. He saw the fear in the faces of His disciples.

Jesus then stood, stretched

out his arms to the wind and to the waves, and commanded them to, "Be still!" At once, the wind died down and the waves became completely calm.

Just as Jesus calmed the troubled seas in an instant, He can calm the troubled situations in your life.

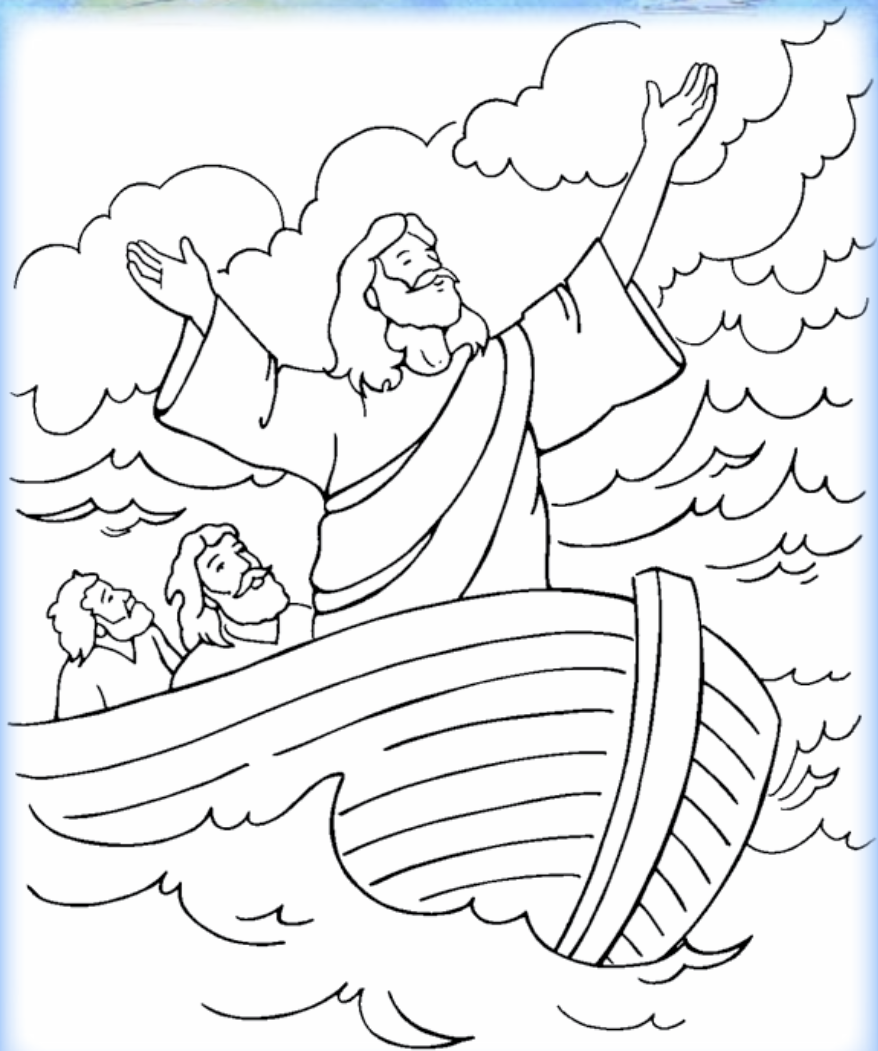
Just as Jesus cared for His disciples in the storm, if you ask Him, He will care for you too when you are afraid.



Illustrations by Tabitha Hedger

Kid's Korner

Colour in the picture of Jesus calming the storm.



Effective Households

When the Bible speaks of a “house”, it is not just referring to the buildings we live in. Our house describes everything about us; our family, goals, direction, motivations and history.

Each household is the fruit of multiple generations of people who have made decisions and moved from place to place. As our forefathers changed location and employment, this affected relational and cultural opportunities for those who followed. So if we are to fully please the Lord in our generation, it is important that we consider the “gods of our fathers” because that is the history which has defined us today. The “gods of our fathers” are the influences which have been passed down through many generations. They are the family cultures passed down to our fathers and mothers which are sometimes so familiar that we fail to recognise their impact.

As the Israelites were coming out of Egypt, they grappled with their recent

history. They looked back over their shoulder and remembered the “gods of Egypt”, the treasures and cultural artefacts they had intended to take to the place where they were going. The “gods of Egypt” are those things in our immediate past, in the last few years or the previous generation.

Joshua also made mention of the “gods of the Amorites” in whose land they were living. These gods represent our immediate situation; the influence of our goals, aspirations and cultural framework – the impact that our family, employment, church, sports club or community group has on our life and choices.

Therefore it is important to note that our “house” has three prevailing and constant influences – our historic lineage, our recent history and the impact of the world. As Joshua challenged the Israelites, we also must “choose for yourselves today whom you will serve”. Joshua 24:15.

We must choose to incline our hearts to the Lord. The Lord has a definition for our houses that can bring forth fruit and have an effect on both society and the church. There are four kinds of houses in the Scriptures:

1. A pastoral or shepherding house, which is a caring, tending and supporting house. This is like the house of Stephanus in 1 Corinthians 16:15;
2. An evangelistic house, which is a house of outreach into the community. In Acts 21:8, we read of Philip the evangelist;
3. A teaching house, which is a house that teaches scripture through Bible studies, like that of Priscilla and Aquilla in 1 Corinthians 16:19; and
4. A house of prayer and worship, which becomes a house of prophecy and refuge, like the house of Mary in Acts 12:12.

We can all have a worthy house, whether your household is young people sharing a house together, a divorced or separated man or woman, or a husband, wife and children. All can seek to serve the Lord in their particular kind of house. Fellowship, community and hospitality pervade all houses.

Every house can be effective for the gospel. We can all have a house that serves the Lord. What kind of house would you like? What is your aspiration? If you're not sure, try something! Invite people in. Think about who you are. At the very minimum, we can all show hospitality. We can reach out to friends and to those in our workplaces and community. Will we say, as Joshua did, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord"?

-Adapted by Lania Lynch & Kristy Horton from *Effective Households* by David Falk



In the Kitchen

Ingredients

- 200g butter, chopped
- ½ cup cocoa powder
- 2 cups firmly packed brown sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 ½ cups plain flour
- 200g dark eating chocolate, melted, cooled
- 1 tbs vegetable oil

Method

1. Preheat oven to 170°C. Grease 20cm x 30cm lamington pan; line base with baking paper.

2. Stir butter with sifted cocoa in medium saucepan over low heat until smooth. Add sugar; stir until dissolved. Remove from heat; add extract, egg and sifted flour, mix well. Spread mixture into pan; bake for 20 minutes; cool 10 minutes.

3. Meanwhile, make caramel filling by stirring butter, sugar, syrup and condensed milk in medium saucepan over low heat until butter is melted. Increase heat to medium; simmer, stirring, 10 minutes or until mixture is a dark caramel colour. Remove from heat; stir in nuts.

4. Spread caramel filling evenly over base; refrigerate at least 30 mins or until firm. Combine chocolate and oil in small bowl, spread over caramel filling; refrigerate until set.

Hazelnut Caramel Slice

Caramel Filling

- 185g butter, chopped
- ½ cup caster sugar
- 2 tbs golden syrup
- ¾ cup sweetened condensed milk
- 1 ¼ cups roasted hazelnuts



Find us at...

www.ccfc.org.au

Visit our website to view details of our programme and upcoming events, with links to our publications and music.



View the latest
'Thought of the
Week' taken from
the Citywide
Family Hour

Thought of the Week

Reigning in Life

from Citywide Family Hour 2nd May 2010 by Bruce Mackay

Do you know that you have eternal life? Eternal life is not just something we receive after we die - we can

Something to Think On

PEACE

in a troubled world

There are two types of peace in the world. One, a peace found in solitude and the absence of turmoil. The other, a peace that remains in the midst of turmoil.

We would all agree that in this world we will have trials and tribulations. Since 1945, some say we, as a nation, have known peace. Yet this is a very general summation considering the conflicts in Korea, Vietnam, Malaysia, East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan. The anxiousness and uncertainty of the Cold War many of us grew up under is today replaced by an anxiety about terrorism and financial crisis. Even on a personal level we can be robbed of peace as the news media reminds us of the dangers lurking outside our doors.

For many of us, peace is found in retreating to the parents' retreat, launching the boat with wife and kids left behind or escaping into the storyline of a novel or movie, in solitude. Yet even here, our internal conflicts can make peace seem like an unattainable dream.

God offers another peace, dependent solely on our commitment to Him. We see this peace demonstrated by the men and women of faith whose accounts we

read of in the Bible, none more so than Jesus. Jesus is the Prince of Peace, yet the Bible also speaks of Him as a man of sorrows; acquainted with grief, despised, rejected, oppressed, afflicted, and smitten by God. While this might seem like an enormous contradiction, it's actually a profound lesson on what peace truly is.

God's peace is a perfect peace, not dependent on situations or circumstances. Contrary to our understanding, it remains amidst trials and conflict. It is not sourced from within ourselves, and can't be obtained seeking solitude or in an absence of turmoil. The peace found in retreating from life's turmoils is only momentary and directly dependent on the absence of unrest.

When we put our faith in His words to us, we receive this peace into our lives. In receiving this message, we receive an enabling to stay our mind on Christ, and He keeps us in perfect peace regardless of the circumstances. In committing ourselves to Christ, we find His peace and our hearts and minds are guarded from the anxieties and despairs of this world.

- Corey Edwards & James Curtin

Relaxed Atmosphere

Live Music

Great Coffee

Fine Food

Bible Message

CAFÉ ON THE DECK

Sunday 20th June & 22nd August

From 6:30pm

Cnr. Progress & Mission Roads, White Rock

For more info call Josh on 0407 156 066



foundations



CITYWIDE

Christian Fellowship

C A I R N S

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